

Phone (601) 863-3323

JIM BROWN
BOOK REVIEWS - FREE-LANCE REPORTING
410 BURKE AVENUE
LONG BEACH, MISSISSIPPI 39560

August 21, 1970

Dear ~~Mr. Weisberg~~,
Harold

It was so good to hear from you last May, and thanks so much for the background information you supplied regarding Ronny Caire, and sorry I am so long in reporting back.

+ worked for Although Ronny and I are very good friends (I've known him for several months), I was still hesitant to approach the subject of his knowledge about Oswald in New Orleans, mainly for the reasons you mentioned. Nevertheless I stayed late at the office (which is in the top floor of their home, rebuilt recently since Camille) one afternoon and helped he and his very charming wife Katy hang drapes. While working, I brought up my interest in the case, minimizing my work and knowledge of it, and avoiding all mention of my association with Garrison, and yourself. In other words, I let him do all the talking. At times, I really had to restrain myself, especially during his vituperative indictments of those who have gotten "wealthy" writing about the case (Manchester excluded), and his vehement dislike of Jim Garrison, which I could not account for. "He's a textbook case of a multiple schizophrenic and paranoid," Ronny advised me; "the reason he went after Shaw was in retaliation for stealing that boy away from him." He elaborated, "Yeah, Garrison is not a homosexual; he's a heterosexual." (I silently amused myself at this; I'm sure from the remainder of his remarks on the subject that he meant bisexual, but for a man who's "been around", he has obviously never seen Jim's wife, the husband of whom could hardly be anything but faithful!) I think the discussion ended somewhere around that time, as I tired of his usual manner of making libelous statements (not in print, of course) about which he really has no real knowledge or supporting information. However, my discussion did yield some elucidation on matters about which he was knowledgeable. Such as Sergio Arcacha Smith.

He himself began the discussion with Arcacha. "Well, I had Sergio Arcacha Smith working for me (in his public relations firm) at that time, and you know he was one of those Garrison accused." Point blank--did he think Arcacha was involved in a C.I.A.-inspired plot to kill President Kennedy? "No, no-- Sergio was interested in two things-- one, making a living for himself and his family, and two, getting back into power in Cuba." He had no idea why Oswald came to see him, and scoffed at my suggestion that Arcacha inspired it. And that was his only idea why Oswald

JIM BROWN
BOOK REVIEWS - FREE-LANCE REPORTING
410 BURKE AVENUE
LONG BEACH, MISSISSIPPI 39560

?
had his address in his notebook-- he wanted a job. He did agree, in answer to my question, that Oswald could have been a counter-espionage intelligence agent. "Yeah, he could have been working for both sides. I don't think he knew who he was really working for. He was a very confused, very disturbed young man." No, he never saw Oswald distributing pro-Castro literature, but he ~~was~~ ^{is} aware that some of the early leaflets had the address of the Newman building. "Yeah, and Sergio and them were right down the hall. But he did not think they were affiliated, either with each other, or together or separately involved with the C.I.A. But, I said, "all of these people were such weirdos and kooks that Garrison implicated." I was thinking primarily of Oswald, Ferrie, et als, but he interrupted, "Not Sergio! No, Sergio was no kook. He was a very brilliant fellow." But not connected with the C.I.A., as far as he knew.

?
He had indeed been questioned extensively before about Arcacha, as you mention by the F.B.I., and also later by two of Garrison's investigators. "Yeah, they asked me about Arcacha, and I said wait a minute I'll get out his personnel folder. And I showed them a snapshot I had of him in his records, and they were ecstatic. I thought they were going to have a Roman orgy over it." Nevertheless, I was sure that even from the "100 hours" of intensive questioning very little enlightenment was produced. Of course, I do agree that he and the dozens of others who knew the real Oswald in New Orleans should have been called to give the true picture before the Warren Commission, and I hope will be, before a new official inquiry panel of Congress, which will publish and make public all of its records.

In the meantime, I hope you always consider that you (and your wife, whom I've never met) have a ~~standing~~ invitation to join me down here on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. I live in a large, modern home about a block and a half from the beach, complete renovated since Camille, with an empty guest bedroom, and would be deeply honored to have you as guests anytime. I would also welcome the opportunity to discuss my recent research with you, and to hear of your latest work; perhaps I could be of some help. And I would be happy to drive you over to New Orleans (about an hour and half drive via Interstate 10) to talk to Garrison. Meanwhile, please do keep in touch; use enclosed envelope when you have time-- I'd be delighted to hear anything from you.

Your friend,

